THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) was constituted in March, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, CSIR to recommend measures to strengthen the research and development capability of the pharmaceutical industry in India and to identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic Research and Development. This Committee was not set up for drug prices. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which has been taken into account while formulating the Pharmaceutical Police 2002.

(c) to (e) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the national Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been identified for inclusion under prices control in the DPCO, 95 on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measure where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Private diagnostic labs at Safdarjung Hospital

*258. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi has become a hub of private diagnostic labs;

(b) whether reports have come in that a majority of tests are done by these private labs in a very organised manner; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) It is not correct to say that the Safdarjung Hospital has

become a hub of private diagnostic labs. Various investigations are done in Safdarjung Hospital in the Departments of Lab Medicine, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Histopathology, Blood Bank, Radiology and Hematology. The patient, however, has the choice to get investigation done from outside. The total number of investigations undertaken in the above mentioned Departments per day is 6510 approximately. Moreover, single window system for various investigations including ECG, X-Ray, CT Scan, Ultrasound is in existence in emergency Department. However, for any specialized test for which facilities are not available in the Safdarjung Hospital, the patients are advised to get the same done from outside. CGHS beneficiaries are advised to get the same done from any CGHS. approved center.

Unauthorised reservation from VIP Quota

*259. SHRIJAYANTILALBAROT:

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unauthorized persons or institutions are being given confirmed reservations from VIP quota by DCM, Ahmedabad Railway Division of Western Railway;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by the Railways in this respect; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned officers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Complaints regarding alleged irregularities in allotment of emergency quota at Ahmedabad have come to notice in which some commercial officers are stated to be involved.

(c) The matter is under investigation.

Medicine pricing policy

†*260. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to amend the present policy regarding pricing of medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have received complaints of misuse or drawbacks of present policy; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.